

TOWN DEBT IS MUCH REDUCED

Bloomfield Is \$177,402 Better Off To-day Than It Was Three Years Ago.

OTHER MATTERS IN COUNCIL

Financial condition of Bloomfield at a session of a proper collection of the proposed cross-town railway to Elmwood and the matter of a new passenger and freight station on the Lake Shore Railroad were the subjects of attention brought before the Bloomfield Town Council at its regular meeting last night.

Councilman Conlon of the Finance Committee presented an interesting report on the financial condition of the town which showed it to be 10 per cent better shape than at any time since it was incorporated. The sewer system, it was said, cost \$200,000 of which \$25,000 was for lateral sewers and \$175,000 for an outlet. Of this amount \$124,000 was reported as having been paid to schools, the debt on March 1, 1900, was \$185,000, and the bonds paid this amount to \$200,000 leaving a balance of \$116,000. Against this the town has school properties worth more than \$200,000. The floating debt is \$100,000. There are street improvement bonds to the amount of \$75,000 which however are not payable until June, 1910. The total obligations of the town are \$375,250, a decrease in three years of \$177,402.

Valuations Increased.

The report showed further that the highest point of non-business was reached just before the town was incorporated when the assessed valuation was \$1,000,000. Since then there has been a steady reduction in the debt and an increase in valuation, which is now \$2,000,000. The floating indebtedness including the special Board of Health note of \$100,000 is now \$100,000, most of which is drawing interest at the rate of seven per cent, while only four per cent is paid by the town for borrowed money.

In conclusion the report was that the last bonds issued sold at 110, which was generally considered a high rate.

Councilman Moore of the Legal and Franchise Committee brought the application of the Lake Shore Railroad for a franchise to the council, which he said it was not passed at the last meeting. President Apple of the committee tried hard to have the franchise advanced but it was after a long discussion and will be until the next meeting to enable the committee to examine the measure more carefully before it is finally voted upon.

Mr. Moore declared that the members of the council had met with Mr. Apple and that considerable progress had been made and every probability toward an agreement acceptable to the council had been reached. Two of the councilmen, he said, were not present at the conference and he thought the action to be taken should be unanimous. He therefore recommended that the ordinance be laid over until the next meeting, when it could be passed by a majority.

Mr. Apple said that he had not been present at the conference and he would be glad to open the council would on the ordinance by taking up the proposed amendments and disposing of them.

The matter then being up for discussion Mr. Apple said he would like to have the amendments to shape to improve the ordinance.

He then asked the council to consider the ordinance and pass the ordinance to the board of health.

Road Improvements.

Thomas H. Ward, a former councilman and now a member of the Board of Trade, presented a communication from Chairman Peterson in effect that he had written to the Trustees of the Lake Shore Railroad Company in relation to the removal of the company's passenger and freight station from Bloomfield. Mr. Ward said it was stated that recent years were being improved with the railroad at all times and endeavor to range a contract with them on a reasonable basis for the elimination of grade crossings and for the construction of a new passenger station.

Ward said two years ago, Mr. Truesdale in his letter, he submitted to the board of Bloomfield a plan providing for the elimination of grade crossings and never received a reply, and the matter was dropped.

In making a contract for this work, Mr. Ward said, he would expect the town to pay a fair proportion of the cost of the improvement. It would be impossible, he said, with the other pressing matters to take this question until after the first year, at which time, if it is decided, the company can present its plan for work.

Garbage Question.

Mr. Ward brought up the matter of the removal of garbage. He said he had numerous complaints from the merchants which it was now being done, and that the system was not efficient. He stated that a committee he appointed to report on the present system upon the advisability and cost of installing a public scavenger service.

Mr. Peterson appointed Messrs. Conlon and Harrison as the special committee.

Mr. Harrison, of the Water Board, reported the extension of the water contract to April 1, and asked soon to make a definite contract.

He also reported the extension of the contract for grading Delaware avenue and referred for tabulation.

Police Collins reported thirteen tickets during December. Fifty dollars for police fines and \$25 for health fines. The bad condition of the street at Broad street and Broadway was referred to the board of health.

School children of Canton who could not be kept from letting fall their

chins. Our country is united to-day in ad-

Kinley's portrait London bus dri-

their windows and clear crepe on their

about two months.

Clinton Street, Bloomfield.—Adel.

Banner," and "Bally Round the Flag."



Thomas H. Ward
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Palm Beach, Fla.
1909